

THE SLEEP OF SERPENT

THEIR EYES ARE LIDLESS AND C
NEVER CLOSE

One of the most curious facts with regard to snakes is that their eyes are never closed. Snake eyes are always wide-eyed. If we take a dead one and examine it closely we shall soon find the reason—there are no eyelids. The eye is protected only by a strong scale which forms a part of the epidermal envelope, and is cast off in the pig skin. We can even find the reptile moulting. The eye plate has a transparent scale which is shed and allows the most perfect vision, while at the same time it is so hard and tough as perfectly to protect the delicate organ within from the touch and twigs among which, in flight from enemies or in pursuit of prey, the reptile so often has to creep.

When we and other warm-blooded animals sleep, our eyelids close to shut out light, while the pupil relaxes or opens. In serpents the action of the pupils is the reverse of ours—contraction

or closes as a rat's does in sunlight. I saw one example of this in one of my copperheads. The copperhead vipers have eyes with a vertical pupil like the cats'. Now, the copperhead was asleep, for the pupil of the eye was hardly apparent. I happened like a hair-bait mark of black and white to be in the line of vision of the sleeping him. I put a frog into his cage. On seeing the snake, the frog was instantly alarmed and began jumping wildly against the glass. In one of its leaps it alighted on the head of the copperhead. The frog was so close to the snake that the cage I could observe most closely the pupil dilating. Then the vibrating tongue came forth, feeling the air in his vicinity. He had probably been dreaming of frogs, for, as the frog jumped again, he darted forward with his mouth open and he had it open-mouthed upon the frog and he had it in his jaws. His eyes were not at all marked with the hair-like line of black as before, but had quite an extensive vertical elongated, as if enclosed between two somewhat of a line of black. After he had finished his meal I went again to the cage. The snake was lying coiled and certainly asleep, with the same fine, black line

As the fiercest and most terrible of the predatory mammals are the great night-prowling cats, so also in the serpent kingdom the most potent in strength, or venom, are the snakes.

of the fangs of venom, viz., the viperidae and the boidae, are cat-eyed and nocturnal. Excepted when they are thirsty you will rarely find them wandering in the daytime. The colubridae or common harmless snakes' eyes have round pupils: these snakes sleep at night, being active chiefly during the hours of sunlight.

had in them seasoning of danger, while others were marked by a touch of the ridiculous, but all of them were amusing and instructive, too, inasmuch as they showed the behavior of the sleepers before and after their awaking.

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dried-up stream to lie down and rest, beneath the leafy trees which shaded it. I chose a spot more than usually secluded, had taken off my coat and laid it on the grass, and was about to stretch myself on the slope with my feet to a tree that was old and decaying, when I was struck by the strange beauty of what appeared to be a large fungus, such as often grows on ancient trees. It was quite close to the trunk, between the protruding roots. It was colored dif-

errently from all the fungi had previously seen. Deep velvet black and golden yellow it was. In form it was flat and circular and was about eight foot in diameter. Charmed by its various loveliness, I approached and stooped to touch it. Horror of horrors! It was a frightful puff adder. At that time I was a beginner, and I knew little of snakes except what I heard or read. These dreadful puff adders are undoubtedly among the worst serpents in the world. Persons in South Africa, and died of their bites within the year, and I have heard me that they could actually bury and tear

For a moment I stood there, still stooping, rankled with fear and astonishment. The blood felt chilling in my veins. Would he jump and kill me as I stood? Knowing well that my life depended on caution, I began to move backward as slowly as I could. When I got six feet away I felt safer, and then—strange compounds of relief and uncertainty conquered fear, and I stopped to admire him, and to thank him for his goodness. I coveted him for a new, and undesired, captive to capture him alive. That he saw me I felt assured. His eyes were open. I hadn't yet fathomed the secret of his sleep.

"He was lying in a rat path, evidently watching for rats and was too busy to notice me. Trust he would have waited there I went for assistance and soon returned with a companion and a cat. I was not alone. I was not alone. I was not alone. I got this over his neck, and proved him forcibly to the ground. To prevent his getting loose, my companion also held on to it. 'Be careful to hold him down,' said I, 'for this means death.'"

"We probably pressed pretty heavily, for both were excited and apprehensive of danger. I was fully determined to get him. Trust my companion to hold the stick across his neck."

managed to get my fingers round his throat
behind the head. I lifted him up. He was
as strong as a man's arm, but not more than 2½
feet in length. To my astonishment he had
never moved and did not intend to. I held
his throat the only sign of life was the con-
spicuous pulsation of his double-pointed tongue.
My coat was lying on the grass, and I did not wish
to go through the town in shirt sleeves, I deter-
mined to put it on, but how was I to do this,
holding a living puff adder by the neck,
did not transfer him from one hand
to the other nor even to give him to
my assistant. The consequence

chance to risk. As he was a short, stout, thick snake, I determined to hold him by the head. I reached up and caught him by the head and pushed my arm, snake and all, through the sleeve. My companion held the other end of the cloth, and I pushed my clenched fist into the snake's mouth. As he opened his mouth, I rubbed against his nose, he opened his eyes, and I clenched it against his forehead. He then bit my wrist, and I pulled it from his fangs. He was then hit with a stick, and I pulled him back again. He refused to be pushed through the sleeve. Now he was thoroughly awake, and gave evidence of it by violent contortions. He lashed himself out, opened his mouth in vain efforts to bite

me from my finger. The snake was so small that I had to hold him as he was and go down to my shirt sleeves with my coat thrown over my arm. He had really been asleep while I caught him, and only woke up slowly after I had my fingers clutched round his throat.

I got all snakes sleep so conveniently for catch, that I was able to take a few to the forest of Marajó, near the mouth of the Amazon, on the island of Trinidad, one day when I was there a large cage was discovered coiled in the top of the big bamboos shading the reservoir which supplies the city with water. They telephoned me

When I was seven I arrived at Taidin the serpent
in the hills and was especially in the very top of
bamboo. When I was in the very top of the
bamboo he was in was partially surrounded
by the others, and, as the wind was blowing
strongly, it was swaying incessantly
though an arc of some thirty feet. I saw
in the ground that the snake was a
darkish or greenish, decidedly nocturnal
in habits, and his sound as deep
and low as was to be heard in the
bamboo and drop him in the water. Soon
after he was dropped he was in the water, soon
the ground to its apex the branches vi-
brated with the blows of the fast whirling cur-

The leaves around him trembled with my stroke. Still he never moved. He slept through it all, and what is more, when at last I had cut him free, he lay on his lofty bannock and floated into the water, landing him in the middle of the reservoir, he wasn't in a bit of a hurry to loose his coils. He wanted a few minutes to look round him, and then swam out on the k, where he was very much surprised and anxious to find himself my prisoner, with my intention of finding his throat.

While hunting for Guano, in the island of Trinidad, I had a curious interview with one of the same dark-sleeping tree

Along one of the streams coming down the hills I was searching for the *Buthopsis*, better known as the dreaded *ter do*. As the banks where these snakes are so numerous are thickly covered with ferns, I considered it better and safer to follow the stream, where I could at once see both banks in view and at the same time out of danger of stepping incautiously upon one.

To be sure, my feet were in the water, and often to wade to the knees, but that I don't count in the troubles, where water is so abundant. I have only had one for a mile or so, the stream bed being a hard

with a branch hanging out over its middle, on the water to the branch was five feet or more and upon the latter, coiled and asleep, was a boa of the very same kind I had got at Cayenne. That this fellow was asleep there was

"REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE?"

THE MODERN THEOLOGICAL VIEW

She Did Not Become a Solid Pillar of Rock Salt, But Was, as It Were, Recovered or Plated With Saline Material.

From the Rochester Union and Advertiser.

The Rev. Dr. L. H. Spquires spoke on "Lot's Wife" at First Universalist Church, saying:

"Perhaps you wonder why we should remember Lot's wife. The fact is that she is not remembered so noticeably about her to remember. There are great many women whom it is more pleasant and profitable to remember, she had done nothing very great. In fact, there is very little account of her, and that is not very creditable. But perhaps that is because women in those days were not thought of as persons. You would not find in those records we have were written by men. So women received but little attention while living and little mention when dead. In this case they have mentioned 'Lot's wife.' You will notice there have not even given the name of Mrs. Lot. She is only 'Lot's wife.'"

pillar of salt.' Probably if she had become a living saint there would have been no mention of it. Bible reporters were not so very much unlike modern newspaper reporters. A salt woman who 'looks back' gets more notice than the thousand modest, saintly women who go

"In this story of Lot's wife we are obliged to read between the lines and reconstruct the missing links by the aid of a reasonable imagination. The Lot family were residents of Sodom, a city which, according to tradition, was located on the low plain on the eastern border of the Dead Sea. They were warned to flee from the city because of signs of an impending calamity which threatened its destruction. Lot, who was a nephew of Abraham, appears

have been rather more intelligent and righteous than most of the people there. And it seems that Abraham, who dwelt in the highland on the other side of the Jordan, had foreseen the danger which might befall his nephew Lot, his nephew, to leave the city and warn Lot, his nephew, to leave the city and escape to the mountains. By their persuasion Lot gathers his family and household effects in the night and hastily leaves the city, being first to Zoar, a little town nearer the hills, and afterward up into the mountains. But in the hasty flight from the city it is evident that Lot was left behind. Whether he did not want to go, or whether he

any danger, or whether she waited to see if there was a trunk, or whether the rest of them ran away from her and left her to carry the things, we do not know. For some reason she turned back and was lost. The city was on fire, smoke and ashes and sulphurous fumes filled the air of the valley; suffocated every living thing, covered, perfumed, and buried in hitherto unknown ashes every creature that lived. They went back and found Lot's wife, they found her dead body a pillar of salt.

"Now, let us pause a little and try to determine the real character of this event. I can

leave almost every word of this account except the assumption of the supernatural in it. It seems to me to be without all necessary account of what is at issue.

In the first place, Sodom and Gomorrah are the only cities that have been overthrown and destroyed by convulsions of nature. Heraneum and Pompeii were buried under a rain burning lava, sulphur, and ashes from the eruption of Vesuvius in the year 79 A. D. Many other cities in other parts of the world have been overthrown, destroyed, or buried in the same way.

Jericho was overthrown, and partly sunk,

ed up by an earthquake in the year 1769, 1808 large cities in Ecuador were swallowed Africa and Arequipa in Peru were destroyed, the sea retreated from the harbor of Arica returned in a tidal wave which submerged whole coast and carried a United States ship two miles inland. This great earthquake has been described by Prof. von Hoehner of Arequipa. He says: "On Aug. 1808, at five minutes past 5, an earthquake shock was experienced. Half a minute later a terrible noise was heard beneath the earth. A shock was felt more violent than the

And then began a swaying motion, gradually increasing in intensity. In the course of a minute this motion had become so violent that the inhabitants of the town, in terror, rushed into the streets and squares. The next two minutes the swaying had increased so that the more lightly built houses were to the ground, and the flying people could only keep their feet.

And now there followed during two or three minutes a terrible scene. The swaying motion had taken a fiercer, more vertical, upheaval, a submarine, roaring increase, a deafening thunder. Then were heard the houses

ing shrieks of the wretched people, the falling of walls, the crashing of falling houses and churches, while over all rolled thick clouds of a yellowish-black dust, which, when it had been poured forth many minutes longer, had begun to settle and to bury every living creature. Although the shrieks had lasted but a few minutes, the whole city was destroyed. Only a few buildings remained uninjured, and these few which did not lie in shapeless heaps of rubble, while tens of thousands of human beings had been swallowed up.¹

outh of November, 1836, a broad line of
eacoast in Chilli, 100 miles in extent, was
l from the sea. In February, 1836, and
ember, 1837, other similar rises of the
took place. In 1819 the mouth of the In-
which had long been closed to navigation,
deepened in places so more than eighteen
The fort and village of Lindner were sub-
only the tops of the houses and walls
visible above the water. At the dis-
of five miles from this village the hills
up where before had been a low plain,
they called the 'Mound of God.'

w, all these facts indicate that we need, look to the supernatural to find a means for destruction of the cities of the plain. The same as modern travellers tell us, that that is a true fact. Sulphur bedded in the hills there are these conditions under that fierce tropical sun very frequent and long-continued. These same fumes and smoke from the burning of beds may be seen to-day by travellers Abraham saw when 'He got up to the top and looked toward the land of the east and he saw the smoke of the country went the smoke'.

w, I think we may take a reasonable view of the destruction of those cities of the plain. It was some natural convulsion, earthquake, volcanic, which overthrew them, submerged under the waters of the Dead Sea, or buried under sulphurous ashes, as Pompeii was. Fire lent its terrors to the scene. Some escaped, some perished. Lot, who fled to the hills, alone who should remain, returned back, Mrs. Lot, perhaps in a hurried way, to some worldly goods, would undoubtedly overcome and suffocated by the sulphur. Their bodies lying there in proximity

Dead Sea, under the drifting salt might naturally become incruusted with it as if everything about that shore of the sea is incruusted with salt to-day. Lot of it is turned to salt for turning back at a time and is preserved to 'point a moral or a tale.' "

HUNTER'S MISADVENTURE.

It in Two Bear Traps and Held a Prisoner for Forty-eight Hours.

MANCA, N. Y., Dec. 28.—The experience of Beckworth, a young man of Leroy, N. Y., paralleled in the history of hunting in August county nor in Potter county, Pa., which it is contiguous. Young Mr. Beckworth came here a week ago with two companions to hunt for bears, which are numerous in winter. They had poor success here and Beckworth's companions decided to go to Potter county in search of the game, which others are doing.

He chose to stay in this county and alone, and the party separated. Beck was provided with plenty of food, two blankets, a rifle and a revolver, and had to his ability to take care of himself a good time despite his being alone.

The second day he was alone he struck the big bear and followed it for three Then, just as it was coming on night, he into a 100-pound bear trap, which had in the woods ten miles from him.

Kane of this city. The trap closed on the moccasined legs with such force that he could not release himself, and his struggle into another trap, and, being fast there, was nearly helpless. He shouted in assistance, but he was far in the depths of the woods and no one heard him. Firing his strait trap he was equally unproductive of aid, and as the night came on Beckworth himself in his blindness as well as he did ate sparingly of his food. On the next day he fired his gun and revolver at the deer in the hope of attracting attention.

to come to release him, and another came down, cold, cheerless, and with a frown. By this time Beckworth's legs were so far in the grasp of circulation of blood, as he could, and during the night he decided to kill himself the following morning to his relief. The following morning, say, and Mr. Kane, out early to look at came upon the exhausted hunter just to release him and save him from the case had determined upon. Beckworth, out of the train and a vigorous ride, had the effect of restoring the strength of his legs, and he, who was

here he took a train for home. The law requires that when a bear trap is set outdoors the person putting it out must post warning people of its location, and, as it appears, he has neglected to take this precaution.

for damages may result.

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